

**Letter of Understanding
between
Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UD), Government of Odisha
and
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Odisha
for Collaboration for “Drink From Tap” Urban Drinking Water Supply Mission**

PART I

BACKGROUND

Provision of safe drinking water for all is a key priority of Govt. of Odisha. The challenges of urban water supply are enormous. All sections of citizens must have access to adequate quantity of water. Steps are being taken to change the present scenario in to a more equitable, efficient and sustainable urban water supply system. Public Health Engineering Organization (PHEO) is the nodal agency for constructing and operating of all water supplies related projects in urban areas of Odisha excluding at Bhubaneswar, Khurda and Jatni. In line with the requirements of 74th Amendment Act, Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) a not-for-profit company of Govt. of Odisha has been established with the mandate to provide water and wastewater related services on sustainable basis in Bhubaneswar, Khurda and Jatni municipal areas in the initial phase. Gradually, the services of WATCO will be extended to other Urban Local Bodies of Odisha. Considering the need and demand for water supply, the department is implementing numerous projects, with funding support from both, state and central governments. At present about 914.18 MLD of drinking water (90% of total demand) is being supplied per day to 112 ULBs benefiting a population of 64.78 lakh (approx.), out of which, about 25.52 lakh urban population are benefited through 377,357 nos. house connections and the rest 39.26 lakh populations are served through 26,212 nos. public stand posts.

Mission “Drink From Tap” is a comprehensive Mission that will undertake risk assessment and risk management that encompasses all steps in water supply from catchment to consumer to ensure supply of safe drinking-water is made available at each home and consumer can directly **drink from tap**. The Mission will integrate water suppliers, consumers as well as other stakeholders to systematically identify and prioritize system needs, from low-cost operational and management solutions to more capital-intensive infrastructure improvements to maximize the effectiveness and sustainability of those improvements by ensuring that appropriate operations and management systems are in place to support the water supply system over the long term. The primary objective of the mission is as below;

- (i) 24 X 7 Water Supply (including Metering)
- (ii) Quality Surveillance and Assurance
- (iii) Community Participation in Water Supply Management.

Part II

1. Parties in Collaboration

1.1 Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UD), Government of Odisha:

The Housing & Urban Development Department is responsible for policy decisions on urban drinking water supply and sets out that investing in water supply infrastructure is intended to contribute to public health and gender equity. H&UD ensures that drinking-water supply projects are managed on sustainable basis in the long term to deliver safe water and, thereby, achieve the public health contribution envisaged in the policy document of urban drinking water supply.

1.2 UNICEF Odisha

UNICEF, Odisha is strategically placed to support water, sanitation and hygiene sectors in both urban and rural sectors by guiding to progressively realize the human rights to water with a focus on priority interventions on children. To this end, UNICEF will support the Housing & Urban Development Department to achieve universal and sustainable water through the Drink From Tap Mission. UNICEF has a strong interest in ensuring that full benefit is realized from its urban drinking water interventions to maximize their value. UNICEF commits to support the Government of Odisha in the long-term goal of providing safe drinking-water throughout the identified geographical locations.

For this technical assistance, UNICEF will be working with support from IRC Water and Sanitation Centre, The Hague, Netherlands and similar other organizations of required domain expertise. IRC is an international think-and-do tank that works with governments, NGOs, businesses and people around the world to find long-term solutions to the global crisis in water, sanitation and hygiene services. IRC will provide key technical support across key roles, utilising expertise in urban utility performance, systems analysis, capacity building and stakeholder engagement.

2. Purpose and Objectives of Collaboration

- I. The primary objectives of the Drink From Tap Mission is to protect human health and ensure safe water supply practice through providing 24X7 metered water supply along with minimisation of contamination of source waters, reduction or removal of contamination through appropriate treatment processes and prevention of contamination in the distribution network and the domestic distribution system.
- II. UNICEF Odisha, and Housing & Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha will have a technical partnership wherein UNICEF will render program support to implement the Mission Drink From Tap under urban drinking water supply to the identified locations. To achieve the goals, all parties have mutually agree to carry forward the activities.
- III. The Parties will collaborate in Odisha during the term of this Letter of Understanding (LoU) and as detailed here, in order to maximize synergies between their respective technical and management capacities, availability of resources and response capacities in Odisha for the

Mission Drink From Tap under the 5T reforms program of Government of Odisha.

- IV. The duration of this LoU is at-will, subject to the mutual agreement of the parties. This LoU shall become effective upon signature by the Principal Secretary of Housing & Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha and Chief, Field Office, UNICEF, Odisha and will remain in effect until December 2020 or terminated by any one of the parties with one month's prior notice.

3. Areas of Technical Collaboration

The Parties' collaboration will include, but not be limited to:

Roles& Responsibilities of H&UD Department, Government of Odisha

- I. Housing & Urban Development Department ,Government of Odisha will provide necessary government clearances / government orders for implementation Drink from Tap program and notification describing UNICEF, Odisha and its partner organizations as technical and knowledge management partner.
- II. H&UD Department, Govt. of Odisha will form a Core Committee for Implementation of Drink From Tap with UNICEF, Odisha as a key members of the Committee.
- III. H&UD Department, Govt. of Odisha will facilitate initial briefing and capacity building of the stakeholders identified.
- IV. H&UD Department will implement the program components of the Mission Drink From Tap.

Roles& Responsibilities of UNICEF Odisha

- I. UNICEF, Odisha with support from its partner organizations (IRC), will bring in competent national and international expertise on urban drinking water supply management for assessment, planning, implementation and monitoring of the program with a focus on Climate Resilient Urban Drinking Water Services which includes 24X7 Water Supply, Water Quality Surveillance and Assurance for DRINK from TAP and Community Participation in Water Supply Management
- II. **UNICEF will provide Technical Support (System Assessment, Operational Monitoring, Documentation, including details of the system assessment)**
To determine if and how the water supply chain in identified urban areas as a whole can deliver water of a quality that meets health-based targets as per BIS. This system assessment identifies the potential hazards in each part of the water supply chain, the level of risk presented by each identified hazard and the appropriate measures to control the identified risks to ensure that the water supply is safe including operational monitoring with a description of the actions to be taken. H&UD Department will ensure implementation of costed action plan for the Drink for tap Mission .
- III. **Policy Support**

This partnership will Provide evidence based technical support on introducing and scaling up the program state-wide and to build an enabling environment to support and sustain Drink from Tap. The support will include developing or revising state drinking-water policies,

programme and regulations.

IV. Advocacy & Capacity Building

This partnership will support workshops with various stakeholders to ensure they are appropriately briefed on the concept and process for implementing the processes for Drink From Tap program. Besides support for advocacy and capacity building of various primary, secondary and tertiary stakeholders through capacity building and trainings. Training materials will be developed based on training needs assessment and aimed at all stakeholders in the value chain.

V. Review / Monitoring & Knowledge Management

Support to facilitate the periodic review of progress and achievements of Mission Drink From Tap implementation including monitoring framework and schedules. UNICEF will also support in documenting and sharing good practices emerging from Drink From Tap programme.

4. Coordination

- I. The point person of each Party's office will meet at least once per quarter or when there is a significant change in the situation to discuss and review the work progress and the implementation of their collaboration, including, any policy, strategic, operational and implementation issues that have arisen or may arise.
- II. In addition, the head of each Party's office will ensure that, among other things, the relevant technical-level officials of the Parties at implementation level meet on a regular basis to share information, discuss issues of particular interest to a given sector and jointly decide the next courses of action with regard to implementation plan.
- III. In case a conflict arises, the heads of each party will sit together to discuss and agree on solutions and the way forward

The parties hereto put their hand and seal in this Letter of Understanding on this *** (date) of (month), 2019 at Bhubaneswar

Chief , Field Office
UNICEF
Odisha
Bhubaneshwar

Principal Secretary
Housing and Urban Development
Department, GoO
Bhubaneswar

Witnesses:

1. Patrick Moriaty, CEO, IRC
2. Abc
3. Def